

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a display configured to display various readable data; and
a control unit configured to extract a part of the displayed data and configured to send the extracted part of the displayed data to a speech generating device that is configured to generate a speech signal from the extracted part of the displayed data,
wherein the speech generating device is an accessory device that is external to and physically attachable to the apparatus and is configured as a functional cover, and wherein the functional cover comprises:
a shell configured to cover at least a substantial portion of a front of the apparatus; and
a microprocessor configured to communicate with the control unit of the apparatus; and
an interface for physically attaching the speech generating device to the apparatus via a system connector.
2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control unit is configured to automatically send said extracted part of the displayed data to the speech generating device a line or a word at a time.
3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control unit is configured to send said extracted part of the displayed data to the speech generating device a line or a word at a time based on scrolling in the display.
4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the displayed data includes text from menus, text messages, help information, calendars and/or confirmation of actions taken with the apparatus.
5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control unit is configured to send said extracted part of the displayed data to the speech generating

device a line or a word at a time based on inputting characters to the apparatus via a keypad.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the control unit is configured to send the part of the displayed data to the speech generating device responsive to input of spaces and/or punctuation marks via the keypad.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control unit is configured to extract the displayed data from a selected file and automatically send the displayed data to the speech generating device at [[the]] a controllable rate.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data is received as ASCII characters.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the speech generating device includes a conversion circuit configured to support various selectable languages.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the conversion circuit is configured to download the languages via the connected apparatus.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the speech generating device includes a conversion circuit configured to support various selectable voices.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the conversion circuit is configured to download the voices via the connected apparatus.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the speech generating device includes a microcontroller configured to be connected to a memory device containing language information including various languages, abbreviation lists and/or dictionaries.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the speech generating device includes a microcontroller configured to be connected to a memory device containing voice settings.

17. – 18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a portable telephone, a pager, a communicator and/or an electronic organizer, and wherein the display and the control unit are built into the apparatus.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a display configured to display various readable data;
a control unit; and
a speech generating device including a conversion circuit therein configured to convert received data to a speech signal and configured to be connected to a speaker system, wherein the control unit is configured to extract a part of the displayed data and send the extracted part of the displayed data to the speech generating device at a controllable rate and in response to scrolling the displayed data, and wherein the speech generating device is configured to provide a spoken reading of the displayed data at an adjustable rate.

21. – 22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the displayed data includes text from menus, text messages, help information, calendars and/or confirmation of actions taken with the apparatus.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the control unit is configured to send said extracted part of the displayed data to the speech generating device based on inputting characters to the apparatus via a keypad.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the control unit is configured to send the part of the displayed data to the speech generating device responsive to input of spaces and/or punctuation marks via the keypad.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the control unit is configured to extract the displayed data from a selected file and automatically send the displayed data to the speech generating device at [[the]] a controllable rate.

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the speaker system is integrated with the apparatus.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the data is sent as ASCII characters.

29. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the conversion circuit is configured to support various selectable languages.

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the apparatus is configured to download the languages.

31. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the conversion circuit is configured to support various selectable voices.

32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the apparatus is configured to download the voices.

33. (Canceled).

34. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the apparatus is configured to be connected to a memory device containing language information including various languages, abbreviation lists and/or dictionaries.

35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the apparatus is configured to be connected to a memory device containing voice settings.

36. (Canceled).

37. (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code configured to be loaded into internal memory of an apparatus having a display for showing various readable data, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to achieve the functionality of the apparatus of claim 20.

38. (Canceled).

39. (Currently Amended) A mobile phone handset, comprising:

a display configured to display various readable data;

a speaker;

a speech generating device built into the mobile phone handset including a conversion circuit therein configured to convert received data to a speech signal and provide the speech signal to the speaker; and

a control unit configured to extract a part of the displayed data and send the extracted part of the displayed data to the speech generating device ~~at a controllable rate and in response to scrolling the displayed data, wherein the speech generating device is configured to provide a spoken reading of the displayed data at an adjustable rate.~~

40. (Currently Amended) A mobile phone handset according to claim 39, wherein the control unit is configured to send the extracted part of the displayed data to the speech

generating device at [[the]] a controllable rate based on user interaction with the display comprising a voice control input.

41. (Previously Presented) A mobile phone handset according to claim 39, wherein the control unit is configured to send said extracted part of the displayed data to the speech generating device responsive to input of characters to the mobile phone handset.

42. (Previously Presented) A mobile phone handset according to claim 41, wherein the control unit is configured to send the part of the displayed data to the speech generating device responsive to input of spaces and/or punctuation marks via a keypad.

43.-44. (Canceled).

45. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the control unit is configured to send the extracted part of the displayed data to the speech generating device at a controllable rate and in response to scrolling the displayed data.

46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the speech signal comprises at least one word corresponding to a meaning of a short messaging system (SMS) icon.

47. (Previously Presented) A mobile phone handset according to Claim 39, wherein the speech signal comprises at least one word corresponding to a meaning of a short messaging system (SMS) icon.

48. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the control unit is configured to send the extracted part of the displayed data to the speech generating device at a controllable rate and in response to scrolling the displayed data.

49. (New) A mobile phone handset according to Claim 39, wherein the control unit is configured to send the extracted part of the displayed data to the speech generating device at a controllable rate and in response to scrolling the displayed data.